Atty. Dkt. No. 016906-0367

Amendments to the Claims:

DT01 Rec'd PCT/PTC 3 0 DEC 2004

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1. (Original) An arrangement (1) for protecting against overload of an electric motor (2), in particular of an electrically driven fan blower for a vehicle, having at least one changeover element (6) for controlling, in a speed-dependent manner, two series-connected electric motors (2), in which a switch element (14) in the form of a normally open contact (12) is connected in parallel with the electric motor (2) and, in the event of excessive temperatures, causes the relevant electric motor (2) to be short-circuited.
- 2. **(Original)** The arrangement as claimed in claim 1, in which each electric motor (2) has an associated switch element (14), which are tripped independently of one another.
- 3. (Currently amended) The arrangement as claimed in claim 1 [[or 2]], in which the switch element (14) is in the form of a thermal circuit breaker, in particular in the form of a bimetallic strip.
- 4. **(Currently amended)** The arrangement as claimed in one of claims 1 to 3 claim 1, in which the switch element (14) is integrated in the electric motor (2).
- 5. (Currently amended) The arrangement as claimed in one of claims 1 to 4
 claim 1, in which the switch element (14) is arranged on the mounting side of
 a brush plate (16) of the electric motor (2) connected in parallel with the
 electric motor (2).
- 6. (Currently amended) The arrangement as claimed in ene of claims 1 to 5 claim 1, in which the switch element (14) is designed such that it is tripped at a temperature (θ) above a specified motor operating temperature.

- 7. **(Currently amended)** The arrangement as claimed in one of claims 1 to 6 claim 1, in which a fuse element (8) is provided for disconnecting a circuit (4) supplying the electric motor (2) when a predeterminable, critical limit value is exceeded.
- 8. **(Currently amended)** The arrangement as claimed in one of claims 1 to 7 claim 1, in which an interference suppression capacitor (22) is connected in parallel with the switch element (14).
- 9. (Original) A method for protecting against overload of an electric motor (2), in particular of an electrically driven fan blower for a vehicle, two seriesconnected electric motors (2) being controlled, in a speed-dependent manner, by means of at least one changeover element (6), in which the electric motor (2) is short-circuited by means of a switch element (14) in the form of a normally open contact (12) which is connected in parallel with the electric motor (2).
- 10. **(Original)** The method as claimed in claim 9, in which the internal resistance (Ri) of the electric motor (2) is reduced such that a current increase resulting therefrom exceeds a predeterminable limit value.